

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Downtown Selma Historic District

Selma, Johnston County, JN0010, Listed 8/30/2010
Nomination by Jennifer Mitchell
Photographs by Jennifer Mitchell, August 2009



106-112 West Anderson Street



Bank of Selma and West Anderson Street, north side



Person-Vick Building and South Raiford Street, east side



South Raiford Street, west side

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Downtown Selma Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Includes portions of both sides of N & S Raiford, E & W Anderson, E & W Waddell, and E & W. Railroad Streets, and W Webb Street ☐ not for publication N/A

city or town Selma ☐ vicinity N/A

state North Carolina code NC county Johnston code 101 zip code 27576

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Downtown Selma Historic District

Name of Property

Johnston County, North Carolina

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
59	9	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
60	9	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

COMMERCE/TRADE/department store

COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse

COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution

COMMERCE/TRADE/professional

COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

RELIGION/religious facility

TRANSPORTATION/rail-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMER/TRADE/specialty store

COMMERCE/TRADE/professional

COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution

RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

GOVERNMENT/city hall

GOVERNMENT/post office

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial Style

Classical Revival

Colonial Revival

Art Moderne

Art Deco

Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

WOOD/weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other METAL

Terra Cotta

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Downtown Selma Historic District

Name of Property

Johnston County, North Carolina

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Transportation

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1875-1960

Significant Dates

n/a

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ Previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State Agency

☐ Federal Agency

☐ Local Government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Downtown Selma Historic District
Name of Property

Johnston County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 12 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>746470</u>	<u>3936120</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>17</u>	<u>746460</u>	<u>3936100</u>

3	<u>17</u>	<u>746460</u>	<u>3935900</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u>17</u>	<u>746400</u>	<u>3935840</u>

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jennifer Martin Mitchell
organization MdM Historical Consulting, Inc. date May 10, 2010
street & number Post Office Box 1399 telephone 919/368-1602
city or town Durham state NC zip code 27702

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple owners (more than 50)
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification (continued)

No Style

Materials (continued)

walls/concrete block

roof/metal

other/stone

Narrative Description

The Downtown Selma Historic District is located in the historic commercial area of the town of Selma in Johnston County, North Carolina. Selma is situated in North Carolina's Coastal Plain approximately thirty-two miles southeast of Raleigh. The Johnston County seat of Smithfield is less than two miles to the southwest. Beginning in the late nineteenth century, Selma has been located at the junction of several major transportation corridors. The town was established on the North Carolina Railroad in 1867 and incorporated in 1873. Selma grew significantly after 1886, when a branch of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad intersected with the North Carolina Railroad making Selma an important rail junction in eastern North Carolina. In addition to rail transportation routes, several major highways pass through or near Selma. Interstate 95, the major north-south corridor on the East Coast, lies just east of Selma and was completed from Fayetteville to Kenly, which is just north of Selma, in 1961. U.S. 301, which begins in Delaware and ends in Sarasota, Florida and parallels Interstate 95 throughout most of the Carolinas and Virginia, runs north-south through Selma and assumes the name Pollock Street within the town limits. U.S. 70, an east-west highway that runs from the community of Atlantic in Carteret County, North Carolina, to Globe, Arizona, passes just to the southwest of Selma.

The district occupies level to gently rolling terrain typical of the Coastal Plain of eastern North Carolina. The district consists of two principal intersecting corridors—Raiford (less often spelled Raeford locally) Street runs roughly south to north and is intersected by Anderson Street, which extends from the east to the west. The tracks of the historic Southern Railway (formerly the North Carolina Railroad) extend from east to west at the south end of the district; only one contributing building, a former post office, stands south of the tracks while the remaining resources are north of the tracks. The streets that cross Raiford Street, from south to north, are Railroad Street, Anderson Street, Waddell Street, and Oak Street. Elizabeth Street is the east-west running street immediately north of the district's boundaries.

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Streets in the district are paved with parallel parking alongside concrete curbs. Sidewalks extend in front of all the storefronts throughout the district. Several alleys, some wide enough to accommodate vehicular traffic, provide access to rear elevations. Reproduction historic-looking cast iron or steel street lamps, in-ground flower beds, raised floral planters, and a variety of wood and cast iron benches have been placed throughout downtown. Fabric awnings shade the majority of storefronts.

The Downtown Selma Historic District comprises all of the historic commercial area of the town. Mostly residential development has occurred north, south, and east of the district, except along Pollock Street (U.S. 301), where a portion of the western boundary terminates. Modern commercial development characterizes this busy corridor. The area east of the district is mostly industrial in nature. A single residence, the ca. 1915 house at 211 N. Raiford Street, is included in the historic district since it is located along the main commercial street within the commercial area and cannot be connected to surrounding residential areas due to a loss of integrity in the intermediary space.

The Downtown Selma Historic District contains sixty-eight buildings and one structure. Buildings in the district are one to three stories with most constructed of brick. Although the period of significance for the district is ca. 1875 to 1960, the buildings range in date from ca. 1875—the approximate year of construction of the former post office on W. Railroad Street—to circa 2005 when the building at 108 S. Raiford Street was constructed. Of the district's sixty-nine resources, nine are noncontributing because their dates of construction fall outside the period of significance or they have been extensively altered.

The commercial buildings display a range of embellishment from extremely plain facades to more decorative elements such as brick sawtooth banding, corbelled cornices, brick pilasters that frame storefronts, and arched hood windows. Cast metal cornices manufactured from galvanized sheet iron grace the facades of seven buildings including 103-107 N. Raiford Street, which was built ca. 1910. Originally the location of The Hardware Store, the two-story, three-part brick commercial building features a projecting embossed, pressed metal cornice with a dentil band. Perhaps the most unusual façade treatment occurs on the building at 113 S. Raiford Street. The narrow one-story, brick building features a Middle East-influenced peaked parapet with flanking decorative metal finials. The upper façade contains a blind round-arch niche topped by a projecting brick eyebrow arch and flanked by rectangular recesses. The Person-Vick Building, at the southeast corner of S. Raiford and E. Anderson streets, stands as the district's most highly embellished edifice. The stylish two-story, polychrome brick commercial building exhibits an eclectic mix of masonry decorative elements and is crowned by a hipped roof supported by paired, carved brackets anchored on masonry corbels. It features a six-arch loggia that wraps around the principal corner and shelters the main entrance.

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Several resources associated with the important theme of transportation remain in the district. The building that originally served as the depot for the community that preceded Selma—Mitchener's Station—stands on the north side of the historic Southern Railway tracks and at the southwest corner of Webb and E. Railroad streets. In 1867, the North Carolina Railroad moved the depot, which had been built in the mid-nineteenth century. Sometime in the early twentieth century, Southern Railway expanded the building and began using it as a freight depot. A low-hipped, standing-seam metal roof covers the rectangular frame building with deep eaves. As the twentieth century progressed, automotive transportation eclipsed the railroad as a means of moving goods and people and buildings associated with this new technology appeared in Selma. The district contains the last intact historic filling station in Selma. Thompson Garage, built around 1925 and later expanded, is a one-story, brick service station displaying substantial brick pillars that support the hipped, metal-roofed canopy that addresses the intersection of N. Raiford and Oak Streets. The Jordan Motor Company, which opened as a automobile showroom on E. Anderson Street in 1950, is a two-story, pressed-brick commercial building with six metal hopper-style windows with projecting sills piercing the upper level. Cars were displayed on the street level through two groups of four, large plate glass, metal framed windows.

INVENTORY

The following inventory of resources in the Downtown Selma Historic District is arranged alphabetically by street name beginning with the east and north directional streets listed first so that the order of the inventory is as follows: E. Anderson Street; W. Anderson Street, N. Raiford Street; S. Raiford Street; E. Railroad Street; W. Railroad Street; E. Waddell Street; W. Waddell Street, and S. Webb Street. Buildings on each street are listed by address from low numbers to high numbers.

Each building is designated with a historic name, if known, or by its function, i.e. commercial building, if the original or early occupants are unknown. Naming buildings with their earliest occupants proved difficult because of the lack of city directories dating prior to 1957. Where early occupants are listed, this information came from newspapers, local histories, documentary photographs, and the 1980 architectural survey publication, *Historic Architecture of Selma, North Carolina* by Thomas A. Greco. Following the name, the street address is provided, followed by the date or approximate date of construction and the date or dates of major alterations. In addition to newspapers and written histories of Selma, Sanborn Map Company maps from 1905, 1911, 1923, and 1933 provided information about approximate construction dates and the types of businesses of original or early occupants. *Hill's Smithfield-Selma City Directory* for the years 1957, 1959, 1961, and 1963 identified occupants of buildings for that period. Further information about construction dates and the original appearance of many buildings was gleaned from documentary photographs help by the Johnston County Heritage Center in Smithfield. Finally, each resource is classified

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as contributing or noncontributing. Contributing resources were built within the period of significance and retain enough historic integrity to illustrate significant aspects of their past. Contributing resources must retain physical materials, design features, and construction qualities from the historic period. A resource whose date of construction falls outside the period of significance or which has been altered so significantly as to compromise its integrity is classified as noncontributing.

East Anderson Street/North Side

House's Grocery
103 E. Anderson Street
ca. 1920
Contributing building

The two-story, brick commercial building displays a tall flat parapet fronting a group of corbelled brick interior chimneys rising from a flat roof. A projecting brick cornice surmounts a sawtooth band of bricks above a narrow projecting band of bricks. Four wooden, 2/2 double-hung sash windows under brick arches punctuate the upper level; one is covered with plywood. Two rows of soldier course bricks top the storefront, a portion of which is sheltered by a cloth awning. Beneath the awning is a storefront with display windows with a brick skirt flanking a single-leaf, fully-glazed door. A single-leaf, metal-framed door with a transom is situated to the west of storefront. Two large, plate-glass display windows are located to the east of the storefront. An arched-head entry bay on the east end of the façade has been bricked in and fitted with an air conditioning unit. A group of replacement, 6/6 vinyl sash windows pierce the upper level of the east elevation. The building first appears on the 1923 Sanborn map. A late 1930s photograph shows that the now-bricked in bay was a door and that the building contained House's Grocery.

Jordan Motor Company
117 E. Anderson Street
ca. 1948
Contributing building

The two-story, pressed-brick commercial building features terra cotta coping on its flat parapet. Six metal hopper-style windows with projecting sills pierce the upper level. At the street level, two groups of four, large plate glass, metal framed windows flank an original single-leaf, fully-glazed door with a covered transom and a replacement, vinyl-clad, double-leaf door with its original two-part, metal-frame transom; synthetic siding surrounds the bay in which the double-leaf door is located. The east elevation facing Webb Street features a stepped parapet with terra cotta coping and two upper-level windows identical to those found on the façade. A bank of four display windows, like those on the façade, pierces the south end of the

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first level while a pair of garage bays flanking a hopper window is located to the north. Six hopper windows pierce the first level of the north elevation. The October 30, 1947 edition of *The Johnstonian-Sun* featured a photograph with the following caption: "Thomas Jordan Sr. of Smithfield started construction of a building in Selma Monday morning which will house the Jordan Motor Company when finished. The structure is to be 62 x 82 feet, one story high, and made of brick. It will be located at the corner of Anderson and Webb Street, next to the present Jordan Motor Co." Apparently, some time after construction began the plan for the building changed so that another story was built.

E. Anderson Street/South Side

Commercial Building
104 E. Anderson Street
ca. 1940
Contributing building

The two-story, brick commercial building features a flat parapet with concrete coping and a row of projecting brick headers at the cornice. A recessed brick panel extends across the upper façade above two pairs of windows with replacement 9/9 vinyl double-hung sash topped with soldier-course lintels and resting on plain brick sills. A cloth awning shelters the storefront composed of metal-frame plate glass windows that flank wide, double-leaf, fully-glazed, metal-frame doors with a transom. The skirt below the windows is sheathed in later brick veneer. The building does not appear on the 1933 Sanborn map.

Alley Intersects

(former) Post Office
106 E. Anderson Street
1925
Noncontributing building

The one-story, two-part, painted-brick commercial building displays a flat parapet crowning a pair of recessed, horizontal panels—each of which crown a storefront. Both storefronts, which are sheathed in composite siding, have been pushed back and altered with unsympathetic windows and doors. The east storefront displays a large, multi-light window and a synthetic door with an oval, cut glass window. The west storefront, which has been installed since 1979, displays two, multi-light windows set high on the façade and flanking a synthetic central door. The Federal Development Company, Inc., composed of downtown merchants and professionals, erected this building in 1925 to serve as the post office.

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Vacant lot (former site of 114 E. Anderson Street, Guano Warehouse)

Commercial Building
108 E. Anderson Street
ca. 1910
Contributing building

The one-story, brick commercial building features a flat parapet and projecting, stepped cornice. A recessed brick panel on the upper façade surmounts the altered storefront consisting of a synthetic-material-covered transom that crowns wood-frame replacement display windows flanking a recessed replacement multi-light, synthetic door topped with a divided light transom. The skirt beneath the windows has been brick veneered and the recessed entry has been created since 1979. The side elevations are stepped down toward the rear of the building. The 1911 Sanborn map indicates that this building originally served as a grocery store. In 1957, this building housed Curtis V. Johnson Construction Company's warehouse. In 1980, it was Soards Barber Shop.

W. Anderson Street/North Side

Bank of Selma/American Telephone and Telegraph Exchange Building
100 W. Anderson Street
1912; 1985
Contributing building

The three-story, brick Classical Revival-style commercial building features a corner entrance addressing W. Anderson and N. Raiford streets. A hipped, metal roof caps the original flat roof and rests on the flat brick parapet. On the N. Raiford Street and W. Anderson Street elevations, recessed panels below the parapet crown an original projecting pressed metal cornice with prominent modillions. Paired replacement 1/1 double-hung sash partially fill the original upper-level bays; excess space in the openings has been filled with synthetic sheathing. Each bay rests on a projecting sill and is crowned by a sand-colored masonry radiating arch. The W. Anderson Street elevation features five bays on the first level, all topped with a sand-colored, masonry, round arches that have been infilled with vinyl sheathing. Three bays contain replacement vinyl 1/1 sash with vinyl fanlights. The other bays contain replacement doors topped with fabric awnings. A wooden, projecting dentiled cornice supported by four brick posts with recessed vertical sand-colored panels shelters the entrance, which is sheathed in vinyl siding and features a double-leaf entrance with synthetic doors and flanking sidelights. Hipped-roof bay windows pierce the south and east elevations at the entrance. A mosaic floor with "Bank of Selma" spelled out in tile remains at the entrance.

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The Bank of Selma constructed this building in 1912 with the American Telephone and Telegraph Exchange occupying a portion of the upper floor.

E.G Hobbs owned this building from the late 1930s until the 1980s and it was known as the Hobbs Building for a good part of the twentieth century. In 1985, the building was heavily renovated.

Commercial Building
102 W. Anderson Street
ca. 1980
Noncontributing building

The one-and-a-half-story, brick, Dutch Colonial-style, commercial building features a prominent gambrel roof displaying two pedimented wall dormers with 6/6 double-hung sash. A 24-light, slightly projecting window with a three-tier, flat, wood cornice dominates the façade. A molded, projecting wood cornice tops the recessed entrance that features paneling on its interior side walls forward of the single-leaf, half-glazed divided light door.

Commercial Building
104 W. Anderson Street
ca. 1915
Contributing building

The one-story, brick commercial building features a projecting brick cornice above a band of soldier course bricks. A rectangular, recessed brick panel graces the upper façade above a striped fabric awning sheltering a large, plate glass windows flanking a single-leaf, fully-glazed centered door. A low brick skirt extends under the windows. The west elevation faces an alley and displays random recessed brick panels. Avery Julian's real estate office was here in 1957, according to the city directory.

Alley Intersects

Commercial Building
106 W. Anderson Street
ca. 1915; ca. 1960
Contributing building

The two-story, painted-brick commercial building has a flat parapet crowning a two-bay upper façade. Each bay contains a rectangular, recessed, brick panel above a pair of replacement 9/9, vinyl, double-hung

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sash with a projecting masonry sill. The altered storefront features a wood-shingled, pent roof awning on synthetic posts that rest on a low brick wall. Large replacement divided-light display windows flank a recessed fully-glazed, single-leaf door. The recessed entry is sheathed with vertical composite siding. The east elevation faces the alley and displays a stepped parapet above four 1/1 double-hung sash piercing the upper level. A continuous row of three wood-frame windows pierces the upper portion of the first level wall. Two bays on this elevation appear to have been bricked over. A one-story, concrete block, front-gabled addition from circa 1960 attaches to the building's north (rear) elevation. According to the Sanborn maps, a wholesale grocery occupied the building in 1911, followed by a printing office in 1923. The 1957 city directory lists Hub Furniture as the occupant.

Grocery Store
108 W. Anderson Street
ca. 1910
Contributing building

The two-story, painted-brick commercial building features terra cotta coping at the flat parapet that crowns a recessed rectangular panel topped by a row of sawtooth brick. Three 1/1 double-hung replacement sash with projecting brick sills—each under an arch with sawtooth brick detailing—pierce the upper level. A row of painted transoms, two of which have been fitted with air conditioning units, extends across the top of the intact storefront. Large plate-glass display windows with brick skirts and knuckle-joint corners flank the double-leaf, fully-glazed, wood-frame doors with a two-part transom and overhead board and batten ceiling. The 1911 Sanborn map indicates that a grocery store was located here. In 1957, according to the city directory, City Barber Shop occupied the space.

Warehouse
110 W. Anderson Street
ca. 1920
Contributing building

The two-story, brick commercial building features a stepped and sawtooth brick cornice above a recessed, rectangular brick panel. Three replacement 1/1 wood double-hung sash windows on the upper level feature light-colored brick sills and radiating lintels. A cloth awning shelters a double row of divided lights that compose an intact transom extending above the storefront that is framed by bold brick pilasters with sand-colored brick caps and bases. At street level, large display windows with brick skirts and knuckle-joint corners flank a slightly elevated double-leaf, fully-glazed door with a two-part transom. The building first appears on the 1923 Sanborn map as a warehouse. In 1959, it housed Carolina Service and Parts, an automobile-related business, and Edna Boney's insurance office.

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Economy Furniture
112 W. Anderson Street
ca. 1920
Contributing building

The two-story, two-part, brick commercial building features a stepped and sawtooth brick cornice above a pair of recessed, rectangular brick panels. A row of eight 1/1 double-hung sash windows with masonry sills and crowning flat lintels pierce the upper floor. A fabric awning spans most of the storefront, which is framed by three brick pilasters with sand-colored brick caps and bases. Two sets of three large display windows divided by a pilaster extend along the façade and are anchored on each end by a recessed entrance. A double-leaf, fully-glazed, wood door pierces the west end, while a single-leaf, fully-glazed door is located on the east end. The building appears on the 1923 Sanborn map. According to the 1957 city directory, Economy Furniture was located here.

W. Anderson Street/South Side

Alley Intersects

Commercial Building
103 W. Anderson Street
ca. 1910
Contributing building

The two-story, painted-brick commercial building features a slightly projecting brick cornice above rows of stepped bricks. Three 1/1 double-hung wood sash windows under brick arches pierce the upper level, while a pressed metal cornice with a single decorative console tops a row of metal-framed transoms that crown the storefront. Large, plate-glass windows flank a central recessed double-leaf, divided-light, replacement door at the street level. A portion of the first level has been sheathed with stucco. This building appears on the 1910 Sanborn map and is labeled as a warehouse. Originally, it included an additional bay to the east so that it butted up against the west (rear) elevation of 101 S. Raiford Street. A photograph taken during World War I stored in the Johnson Heritage Room shows that a large arched opening was positioned to the left or east of the storefront; the metal cornice above the first level did not extend over the arch, but terminated where it does currently. A window identical to the others on the upper level was positioned above the arch.

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Commercial Building
107 W. Anderson Street
ca. 1910
Contributing building

The two-story, brick commercial building displays a slightly projecting brick cornice above a band of brick corbelling. A rectangular recessed panel tops the upper level above a row of replacement fixed light windows under brick arches that pierce the second floor. A pressed metal cornice tops a row of metal-framed transoms that crown the mostly intact storefront where a cloth awning shelters large metal-frame plate-glass windows that flank a double-leaf, fully-glazed door. The brick skirt under the windows has been sheathed in newer brick. This building appears on the 1911 Sanborn map and is labeled as a warehouse. A photograph taken during World War I indicates that a metal console was positioned at the west end the metal cornice that extends from 103 W. Anderson Street over this building's storefront. The photo also shows that there was a building identical to 103 and 107 W. Anderson Street just to the west of this building.

N. Raiford Street/East Side

People's Bank/Branch Banking and Trust Company
100 N. Raiford Street
1922; 1963
Contributing building

The two-story, brick, vault-form Neoclassical Revival-style building framed by bold pilasters features a pair of Corinthian columns in antis resting on brick stylobate support a masonry cornice and crowning peaked parapet. A two-part, metal-frame window at the upper level, a 1960s replacement of the original, rests on a masonry beltcourse. A cut-stone round-arch architrave embellished with a scrolled keystone frames the 1960s replacement double-leaf, fully-glazed door with transom. A semicircular window above the entrance was covered, most likely in the 1960s renovation. The Anderson Street elevation consists of seven bays separated by pilasters identical to those on the façade. A fret motif separates the lower and upper replacement plate glass windows. The cornices continue from the façade to this side of the building. A single-leaf, fully-glazed secondary entrance door is located on the east end of this elevation. Built as People's Bank in 1922, it became a BB&T in 1928. The bank donated it to the town in 1968, which continues to use it as the town administrative offices.

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Downtown Selma Historic District
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Commercial Building
104 N. Raiford Street
ca. 1950
Contributing building

The two-story, brick commercial building displays two storefronts and a stepped, slightly projecting brick cornice. A pair of rectangular wood louvers pierces the upper wall above two sets of four windows with vinyl replacement sash with faux muntins. A pair of striped cloth awnings shelters the altered storefronts containing two rows of reflective, metal-frame windows above a low brick skirt. All doors have been removed as this building serves as an annex to the neighboring town hall building and is accessible only through that building. On August 2, 1952, *The Johnstonian-Sun* reported that the Quality Store was opening in this building.

Commercial Building
108 N. Raiford Street
ca. 1950
Contributing building

The two-story, brick commercial building features a stepped, slightly projecting brick cornice and a sawtooth brick band at the parapet. Four original 6/6 double-hung sash windows punctuate the upper level and are positioned above a striped awning that shelters the storefront composed of a single-leaf, fully-glazed door recessed between plate glass, metal-framed display windows: the outer lower panels along the sidewalk have been filled with tan-colored sheathing. The August 2, 1952 edition of *The Johnstonian-Sun* reported that Edmund's Men's Clothing was opening in this building. The Quality Store occupied this building in 1957, according to the city directory.

Commercial Building
110 N. Raiford Street
ca. 1930
Contributing building

The one-story, brick commercial building features a stepped, slightly projecting brick cornice above a rectangular recessed brick panel. An intact prism glass transom surmounts the intact storefront composed of large plate glass display windows that flank the single-leaf, fully-glazed wood door with a transom. The north elevation has been sheathed in stucco, presumably when a neighboring building was demolished. The interior retains its wood floors and pressed metal ceiling. The building first appears on the 1933 Sanborn map.

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First Citizens Bank
114 N. Raiford Street
ca. 1970
Noncontributing building

The two-story, flat-roofed, modernist concrete building set back in a brick plaza features a brise soleil and dark-tinted plate glass windows. A drive-through structure is just north of the building. According to the city directory, Henry's Hardware and Electric stood here in 1957.

Commercial Building
120 N. Raiford Street
ca. 1950
Noncontributing building

The one-story, painted-brick commercial building displays tile coping at the parapet and an altered storefront consisting of large, metal-frame display windows, a double-leaf, fully-glazed metal frame door, and a single-leaf, fully-glazed door. Synthetic sheathing covers part of the storefront. Selma Radio and Music Company is listed as the occupant in the 1957 city directory.

Commercial Building
122 N. Raiford Street
ca. 1950
Contributing building

The one-story, pressed-brick commercial building features tile coping at the parapet and brick headers in the form of a rectangle that creates a modest decorative element below the parapet. An awning, which also extends across the façade of 124 N. Raiford Street, shelters the intact storefront consisting of a large plate glass display window above a brick skirt and an off-center, recessed metal-framed, single-leaf, fully-glazed door. Wilbur's Hot Dog Restaurant is listed as the occupant in the 1957 city directory.

Dr. Allen H. Lee M.D. Office
124 N. Raiford Street
ca. 1950
Contributing building

The one-story, brick commercial building features a plain, slightly projecting, brick cornice. An awning, which also extends across the façade of 122 N. Raiford Street, shelters the intact storefront composed of a

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wood, single-leaf, fully-glazed door with a narrow transom recessed between large plate glass, metal-framed display windows above brick skirts. Dr. Lee is listed as the occupant in the 1957 city directory.

Creech Drug Company
126 N. Raiford Street
ca. 1920; ca. 1960
Contributing building

The two-story, painted-brick commercial building displays a façade is divided into three horizontal sections. The upper level is composed of a course of sawtooth brick executed in a cone shape that caps a row of tall brick dentils. A recessed brick rectangle surmounts another row of brick dentils that are more modest in size. The second section consists of the two sets of paired, vinyl, 1/1 windows crowned by flat arches and resting on plain double row brick sills. The street level completes the façade and consists of a striped fabric awning sheltering a boarded-over transom and large, metal-framed display windows with a single-leaf, fully-glazed door at the center. Enamel panels sheath the first story, except where simulated masonry covers the skirt. The E. Waddell Street elevation features an extended recessed brick panel below the flat parapet. Four windows on the second floor with radiating flat arches have been bricked in, although their sills remain discernable. An open flat-roofed walkway supported by iron posts extends along the length of this elevation and shelters a large, plate glass display window piercing the west end of the wall. A rare and intact key-shaped neon sign, likely dating to the late 1950s, is mounted on the front corner of the building's upper level. The building first appears on the 1923 Sanborn map. A new storefront was installed around 1960.

Joe Creech organized the Creech Drug Company in 1939. In 1942, E.V. Woodard merged his Woodard Drug Store with Creek Drug Company and the named was changed to Woodard & Creech Drug Co. Woodard retired in 1957 and his name was dropped from the title. In 1966, Joe A. Creech Jr. graduated from pharmacy school and joined his father in the business.

Waddell Street Intersects

John A. Mitchener Building
202-208 N. Raiford Street
1925
Contributing building

The one-story, four-part, pressed-brick building displays fanciful glazed terra cotta elevations including decorative pilasters that frame the storefronts and support a lavish entablature crowned by urns. Ornamental

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elements include fruit-filled cornucopias, leaves, and flowers that crown the pilasters, floral motifs embellishing the frieze, acanthus leaves decorating the cornice, and geometric shapes along the paneled pilasters. A panel of synthetic material sheathes the top of each storefront covering earlier prism glass transoms, while newer brick skirts the area below each storefront. The northern two storefronts have recently been altered with new plate glass windows flanking single-leaf, fully-glazed doors. The southernmost storefronts have modern plate glass windows that are not recessed. The decoration wraps around the south corner of the façade, forming a single bay with a display window over a replacement stone skirt. J.A. Mitchener constructed this building in 1925. Occupants of the building in 1957 included Central Drug and Equipment at 202 and Bailey Funeral Home, which occupied the northern two storefronts. According to the city directory for that year, 204 stood vacant.

Oak Street Intersects

The Rudy Theater
300 N. Raiford Street
ca. 1940; ca. 1970
Contributing building

The brick building displays a stucco façade and a stepped parapet that is topped with tile coping. Two small windows pierce the upper level of the façade. A large, wood-shingle awning that shelters the aggregate-pebble-covered street-level façade also covers a row of four windows evident in a ca. 1945 photo of the building. Windows and doors are modern replacements. The entrance and ticket booth materials and configuration have been altered as well. The side elevations are sloped downward toward the rear of the building. Originally, a marquee topped by a neon sign occupied the façade. A small park with playground equipment shares the parcel with the theater. The Rudy Theater was the occupant in 1957, according to the city directory. A 1967 photograph shows that windows on the façade were metal casement.

N. Raiford Street/West Side

Commercial Building
101 N. Raiford Street
ca. 1912; ca. 1986
Contributing building

The two-story, brick commercial building features a projecting embossed pressed-metal cornice with a dentil band. Two pairs of 9/9 wood double-hung sash with radiating brick flat arches are recessed between brick pilasters and crowned by two rows of stepped brickwork. A projecting metal cornice embellished

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with a dentil course and a single console tops the altered synthetic-clad storefront consisting of an awning covering a recessed entrance with a brick tile floor and small flanking display windows. This building is similar to the adjacent 103-107 N. Raiford Street, which was constructed two years before this building. Norton's 5 cent to \$5 Store occupied this space in 1957, according to the city directory. The storefront was altered circa 1986.

The Hardware Store
103-107 N. Raiford Street
ca. 1910
Contributing building

The two-story, three-part brick commercial building displays a projecting embossed pressed-metal cornice with a dentil band. On 103 N. Raiford Street, windows are 9/9 wood double-hung sash topped with painted transoms and with rusticated granite sills and lintels that are recessed between brick pilasters and crowned by two rows of stepped brickwork. A projecting metal cornice embellished with egg and dart molding crowns the altered storefront that is framed by brick pilasters with rusticated concrete bases and caps. A row of twelve painted transoms is located above the storefront, which features a cloth awning sheltering large display windows that step inward toward the recessed, centered fully-glazed wood door.

The upper floor on 105 N. Raiford Street is identical to 103 except for the windows, which are replacement 1/1 double-hung sash with plywood covering the space above the sash and below the rusticated granite lintels. The storefront displays an intact prism glass transom below the projecting metal cornice that is continued from 103. The altered storefront features composite wood sheathing pierced with small octagonal porthole-type windows and recessed vinyl, multi-light French doors with sidelights.

The building at 107 N. Raiford continues the rhythm of cornices and fenestration seen in the remainder of this block. Windows on this upper story are 9/9 wood, double-hung sash with painted transoms below the rusticated granite lintels. A row of translucent glass, wood-framed transom windows crowns the intact storefront sheltered by a cloth awning and framed with brick pilasters with rusticated concrete caps and bases. A wood-frame, multi-pane recessed wood door with a transom is positioned on the south end of the storefront adjacent to large plate glass metal-framed windows set above a low brick skirt. A replacement composite material door on the north end of the storefront provides access to the upper-level residence.

A photograph at the Johnston County Heritage Center dated 1910 clearly shows this building, a portion of which originally housed a hardware business. Each storefront featured full-height display windows with transoms flanking recessed entrances. This block appears on the March 1911 Sanborn map with 103 noted as containing a general store, 105 containing a hardware store, and 107 noted as containing a "store." A

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March 31, 1935 article in the *Raleigh News and Observer* identified J. D. Massey as the manager of a concern called The Hardware Store (105 N. Raiford Street), which sold farm supplies, stoves, and Westinghouse refrigerators. In 1957, according to the city directory, Smith's Department Store occupied 103 N. Raiford Street; Proctor's Department Store was at 105 N. Raiford Street; and Bond's Market Grocery occupied 107 N. Raiford Street.

Grocery
109 N. Raiford Street
ca. 1910
Contributing building

The two-story, brick commercial building features a stepped brick cornice below a flat parapet topped with sheet metal. Modern metalwork balconies front the pair of segmental-arch vinyl replacement windows piercing the upper level. A cloth awning shields a storefront framed by brick pilasters and composed of double-leaf, fully-glazed doors recessed between large, metal-framed display windows above a brick skirt. A photograph dated 1910 shows this building with a striped cloth awning sheltering large plate-glass display windows. The photograph at the Johnston County Heritage Center identifies it as a grocery. This building appears on the 1911 Sanborn map, but not on the 1905 map. The 1957 city directory lists J.C. Betts Grocery as the occupant. In 1980, the upper level of the façade was covered in a synthetic screening, but that has since been removed.

Roberts, Corbett, and Woodard Store
111 N. Raiford Street
ca. 1915; 1950
Contributing building

The two-story, painted-brick commercial building features a corbelled brick cornice above four recessed bays framed by brick pilasters and containing paired replacement windows with faux interior muntins. Each bay is crowned by two rows of stepped bricks and are nearly identical to the upper bays on 101 and 103-107 N. Raiford Street. A pressed-metal cornice extends along the top of the double storefront consisting of metal-framed display windows and a metal-framed, fully-glazed, single-leaf door recessed in the southern storefront. The entrance to the northern storefront has been removed. Boards cover a transom beneath the fabric awning. The rear section of the building originally served as a warehouse for the business. It is one-story in height, and like the front block, it is constructed of brick. Attached to the north side of the one-story section is a one-story unpainted-brick warehouse topped with a metal-covered shed roof. It does not appear on the Sanborn Fire insurance maps before 1933. The Roberts, Corbett and Woodard Store building does not appear in a 1910 photograph of Raiford Street. It appears on the 1923

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Sanborn map, but not the 1911 map. A circa 1917 photo of a portion of the storefront indicates that the north storefront had a prism glass transom surmounting large plate glass display windows. The interior was gutted and remodeled in 1950. The 1957 city directory lists Dunn Furniture of Selma as the occupant.

Commercial Building
113-117 N. Raiford Street
ca. 1980
Noncontributing building

The one-story, pressed-brick commercial building displays flat header course coping above a projecting header string course. Brick pilasters frame the storefront which includes a paired awning-style window in the recessed north bay and a single-leaf, fully-glazed door in the recessed south bay. A late 1970s photo of this block shows that no building occupied this parcel.

Commercial Building
121-127 N. Raiford Street
ca. 1955
Contributing building

The one-story, four-part pressed-brick commercial building with concrete coping on its flat parapet crowning a brick sawtooth cornice. The otherwise plain building displays upper levels on each storefront that feature a rectangular decorative motif executed in brick headers. A striped cloth awning shielding a pair of large, metal-framed display windows above a pressed-brick skirt and a metal-frame, fully-glazed recessed door to the south occur at 121. N. Raiford Street. The storefront at 123 N. Raiford Street is the most altered and contains a recessed raised brick patio with a metal railing and two glazed doors flanking a central 1/1 double-hung sash window. The storefronts at 125 and 127 N. Raiford Street are composed of striped awnings shading a covered transom, large metal-framed display windows above a pressed-brick skirt, and recessed, single-leaf, glazed, wood-framed doors. The door on 125 N. Raiford Street is off-center and positioned to the south, while the door on 127 N. Raiford Street is centered on the façade. A single display window pierces the north elevation of the building at 127 N. Raiford Street.

The 1957 city directory lists the following occupants: Vanity Fair Beauty Shoppe (119 N. Raiford); Dr. Robert Oliver (121 N. Raiford); Langley Jeweler's (123 N. Raiford); and The Thrift Shop Department Store (125 N. Raiford).

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Godwin's Red and White Grocery.
201 N. Raiford Street
ca. 1960
Contributing building

The one-story, brick building with a flat roof sits back separated from the street by a large parking lot. A hipped roof canopy (likely a later change) shelters the southeast corner entrance and extends along approximately one-half of the east elevation. Large stepped display windows pierce the east elevation near the entrance. The first city directory in which the building appears was the 1961 edition. Godwin's Red and White Grocery was the first occupant.

Vacant Lot

House
211 N. Raiford Street
ca. 1915
Contributing building

The two-and-a-half-story, high-hipped, metal-roofed, frame, side-hall-plan house displays a wood shingle exterior and a one-story rear ell. Hipped-roof dormers with paired windows pierce the slopes on three sides of the roof. The 2/2 double-hung sash are original as is the hipped-roof porch roof. The porch has been altered with the removal of the original porch floor and the original porch posts. The front door is a modern replacement. A white brick patio now fronts the house. Faux stone sheathing covers the foundation. The 1957 city directory lists the occupants as Vida and John Beauford and Anne and Haide Scott. Mr. Beauford was in the Air Force and Mr. Scott worked next door at Thompson Garage.

Oak Street Intersects

Thompson Garage
301 N. Raiford Street
ca. 1925; ca. 1960
Contributing building

The Thompson Garage is a complex of automobile service buildings. The original one-story, painted-brick service station displays substantial brick pillars that support the hipped, metal-roofed canopy that addresses the intersection of N. Raiford and Oak Streets. A tall, stepped-brick parapet crowns the metal-sheathed, front-gable-roofed section that fronts N. Raiford Street. This block contains large, metal-framed windows

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and a glazed metal-frame garage door on its façade. Large, metal-frame windows pierce its north wall that faces a fenced yard. A small flat-roofed brick addition is on the north side of this main front-gabled block. Also north of the main block is a painted, concrete-block, gable-roofed addition topped with a metal roof; it has a small concrete-block addition on the west side of its north end. To the south of the main block is another small flat-roofed, brick addition. A large, flat-roofed two-bay painted, concrete-block garage entered from Oak Street is attached to the west (rear) elevation of the main gable-roof block. The station first appears on the 1933 Sanborn map. Thompson Garage was the occupant in 1957, according to the city directory. Thompson Garage is the only historic service station remaining in downtown Selma.

S. Raiford Street/East Side

Person-Vick Building
101-103 S. Raiford Street
1916
Contributing building

The stylish two-story, polychrome, eclectic brick commercial building with a mix of masonry decorative elements is crowned by an overhanging hip roof supported by paired, carved brackets anchored on masonry corbels. Seven brick chimneys pierce the roof. The prominent building addressing both S. Raiford and E. Anderson streets features a six-arch loggia that wraps around the principal corner and shelters the main entrance. Masonry scrolls punctuate the crowns of the brick arches that are anchored by a continuous stone base extending along the bottom of the raised loggia. A masonry cartouche inscribed with "1916" occupies the principal corner above the loggia. On the S. Raiford Street elevation, six double-hung sash—some 1/1 and others 4/1—pierce the upper level. To the south of the loggia, the storefront at 103 S. Raiford Street is more traditional in its arrangement: a cloth awning shades large display windows flanked by a recessed, single-leaf, fully-glazed door whose transom has been covered with wood. The loggia on this elevation shelters a multi-light door and a 3/1 window. On the Anderson Street side, a combination of round-arch windows with plain keystones and rectangular windows containing 4/1 double-hung sash punctuate the upper floor. At the street level, including within the loggia, windows are 4/1 double-hung sash of varying sizes.

Dr. James Person and Dr. George Vick built this as their medical offices in 1916. It has contained an extensive array of businesses and office since that time.

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Bank of Selma
105-107 S. Raiford Street
ca. 1910
Contributing building

The two-story, two-part, painted-brick commercial building displays a flat brick parapet above a pair of horizontal, recessed brick panels. Six 1/1 round-arch double-hung sash windows topped with arched brick lintels and projecting brick arches pierce the upper level. A 1938 photograph of the street shows that each storefront featured small arched bays flanking a prominent central arch. The storefront at 105 S. Raiford Street displays metal-framed windows and a metal-framed, single-leaf, fully-glazed door that is flush with the windows. A secondary door on the north end of the storefront is a wood-frame, single-leaf unit that leads to the upper level. A continuous board covers the transom. While 107 S. Raiford Street retains a double-leaf door recessed between large, angled display windows, the surrounding storefront has been sheathed in inappropriate wood shingles. Panels cover the transom. The Bank of Selma, organized in 1902, originally occupied this building. From 1915 to 1925, the post office was located here. The 1957 city directory lists the occupant as Floyd Price and Sons, a building material supplier.

W.E. Smith and Company/Masonic Lodge Building
109-111 S. Raiford Street
1908
Contributing building

The two-story, two-part brick commercial building displays a stepped-brick-course parapet and a projecting pressed metal cornice supported with brackets. Brick pilasters with caps and narrow bands of projecting brick divide the upper story into four units, each containing a pair of windows with rusticated granite sills and lintels and topped by a stepped brick course and inset brick panels. Windows are replacement and are a combination of fixed glass and 9/9 double-hung sash. A metal cornice extends over the storefronts. The storefront at 109 S. Raiford Street is set between plain brick pilasters and contains large display windows flanking a recessed replacement door. The transom has been boarded over and ventilation panels installed. A 1938 photograph of the street indicates that the arrangement of windows and doors has remained consistent over time. The storefront at 111 has been significantly altered with the installation of new brick and fixed light windows and transom. The 1938 photograph indicates that large display windows with a central recessed entrance composed the original storefront. The most intact element on the street level is the single-leaf, fully-glazed door with transom located on the south end that leads to the upper level.

The William E. Smith and Company Millinery Store and a Masonic Lodge were the first occupants. Mr. Smith served as president of the Bank of Selma until 1915 when he left the town. W.T. Woodard and John

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Ian Wiggs purchased the building at that time to house their dry goods and clothing store, which operated here for almost thirty years. From 1920 until a fire in 1937, the Carolina Movie Theater operated in 111 S. Raiford Street. The fire also damaged the lodge and Woodard and Wiggs. The 1957 city directory lists the occupants as Woodard's Men's Wear, operated by Fred Woodard, and Western Auto, with the Masonic lodge occupying the upper level.

Commercial Building
113 S. Raiford Street
ca. 1910; ca 1930
Contributing building

The narrow one-story, painted-brick building features a Middle East-influenced peaked parapet with flanking decorative metal finials. The upper façade features a blind round arch niche topped by a projecting brick eyebrow arch and flanked by rectangular recesses. The intact storefront consists of a large display window over a skirt covered with synthetic siding and angled inward toward a recessed wood, half-glazed door. This building, constructed in a former alley, first appears on the 1911 Sanborn map. It was extended on the rear around 1930 and is visible in a 1938 photo of the street. Moore's Place, a bar, occupied the building in 1957, according to the city directory.

Selma Drug Company
115 S. Raiford Street
ca. 1900;
Contributing building

The one-story, painted-brick commercial building with nearly full-width inset decorative brick band below a slightly projecting brick cornice. A recessed brick recess panel above the storefront is stepped at its top and curved at each end. Brick pilasters frame the storefront consisting of large display windows that angle inward toward the wood-frame, double-leaf, fully-glazed doors. The crowning continuous transom has been covered. This building first appears on the 1905 Sanborn map. A March 31, 1935 article in the *Raleigh News and Observer* remarked that the town's oldest business firm was the Selma Drug Company, which had been operating for more than a quarter century. A 1938 photograph indicates that Selma Drug Company occupied the building at that time. According to the city directories, Selma Drug vacated the building in July 1957 after a fire gutted the interior. Little Seafood and Grocery was here by 1963, according to the city directory.

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Commercial Building
117 S. Raiford Street
ca. 1900
Contributing building

The one-story, painted-brick commercial building features a flat parapet. Brick pilasters frame the storefront consisting of a striped awning sheltering large, metal-framed display windows angled inward toward a centered, single-leaf, fully-glazed door. This building first appears on the 1905 Sanborn map. According to the 1957 city directory, Wiggs Cleaners and Laundry occupied this building.

Commercial Building
119 S. Raiford Street
ca. 1930
Contributing building

The one-story, painted-brick commercial building displays a flat parapet of brick headers. A recessed replacement wood door is centered between wood-framed display windows with brick skirting that are angled inward. Transoms over the windows and door are intact, although one has been filled with an air conditioning compressor. The interior retains a pressed metal ceiling. This building appears on the 1933 Sanborn map, but not on the 1923 map. According to the city directory, Al-Mar Restaurant occupied this building in 1957.

Commercial Building
123 S. Raiford Street
ca. 1930
Contributing building

The one-story, painted-brick commercial building displays a double storefront and a flat parapet. Brick pilasters frame the southern storefront, which is composed of large metal-framed display windows and a single-leaf, fully-glazed door. The secondary storefront is positioned to the north and consists of a recessed, boarded-up door and a large display window. The side (south) elevation facing E. Railroad Street is stepped and contains a single-leaf door on its east end; a ghost of a window is situated on the west end of the elevation. This building first appears on the 1933 Sanborn map, but not on the 1923 map and replaced an earlier two-story frame building that faced south toward E. Railroad Street. On a 1935 postcard it appears to have a storefront with large display windows above a wood skirt. The bay on the west end of the south elevation contained what appears to be a double-hung sash. Selma Super Market and Vann's Jewelry were located here in 1957, according to the city directory.

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S. Raiford Street/West Side

Selma Manufacturing Company/Selma Furniture Store and Opera House
100 S. Raiford Street
1902
Contributing building

This two-story, painted-brick commercial building extends over the sidewalk on its north elevation along Anderson Street. The resulting covered sidewalk is supported by cast iron columns. Concrete coping crowns a stepped parapet. A metal cornice is positioned above the brick sawtooth band located above the original single and paired segmental-arch 2/2 windows on the Raiford Street (east) elevation; columnettes between the paired windows mimic the columns on the Anderson Street elevation. The S. Raiford Street elevation consists of six transparent transom panels extending along the top of the storefront. A metal I-beam tops the storefront and is supported at its center by a pair of metal columns that flank the recessed, fully-glazed door with transom and sidelight. A metal cornice that originally crowned the storefront has been removed. The Anderson Street elevation features a tall parapet with three long recessed brick panels above a plain brick belt course. Two of the seven segmental-arch windows on the upper level have been altered, although one of those contains an easily removable wood panel. The breezeway, with its pressed-metal ceiling, shelters a series of doors and windows including doors with segmental-arch heads—one of which includes a two-part transparent transom and sidelights with low wood panels. The large plate glass windows on this elevation include translucent glass transoms. Also on this elevation, a composite wood panel covers one of the bays, while a segmental-arch window has been filled with brick. A flat-head window that has been covered with a wood panel pierces the visible portion of the west elevation.

Built in 1902, this building originally housed the Selma Furniture Company. One year later, the company merged with Selma Manufacturing Company. The building also housed the town's first opera house, until a new one was built, in 1916, on E. Anderson Street. Around World War I, Bill Creech Drug Store took over the building.

Commercial Building
102 S. Raiford Street
ca. 1900; ca. 1950
Contributing building

The two-story, pressed-brick commercial building displays concrete coping at its parapet above a horizontal recessed brick panel in the upper level. Two pairs of 9/9 vinyl windows with concrete sills topped with a continuous band of brick headers pierce the second story. Black and green opaque pigmented

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structural glass frames the Art Deco-inspired storefront, which likely dates to the post-World War II era. Seven transom panels of transparent glass set in metal framing extend along the top of the storefront that consists of a single-leaf, glazed door to the south and large plate glass metal-framed display windows that are stepped back and flank a centrally-located wood-framed, single-leaf, fully-glazed door. Square black and white tile cover the entrance to the storefront.

The 1905 Sanborn map indicates that this building housed a hardware store. According to the city directory for 1957, Davis Department Store occupied the building.

Pocket park (Three, two-story brick commercial buildings stood on this site in 1935)

For Pet's Sake Animal Hospital
108 S. Raiford Street
ca. 2005
Noncontributing building

The one-story, flat-roofed brick building displays a row of five, small windows with awnings and a glass vestibule entrance located at its south end and set back from street elevation. (Three, two-story brick commercial buildings stood on this site in 1935.)

Alley Intersects (this alley appears on the 1905 Sanborn map)

Commercial Building
112 S. Raiford Street
ca. 1900
Contributing building

The two-story, brick commercial building features a sawtooth and stepped brick cornice above a row of original 6/6 double-hung sash with plain brick sills. A striped cloth awning shelters the mostly intact storefront that is framed with brick pilasters and consists of a pair of transom-crowned double doors recessed between large plate glass display windows with a brick skirt whose sides are angled from the sidewalk. In a 1935 postcard, this building features columns fronting its storefront. According to the 1905 Sanborn map, this building contained a drug store.

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Commercial Building
116 S. Raiford Street
ca. 1900
Contributing building

The one-story, brick commercial building displays terra cotta coping at the parapet above a stepped brick cornice and a simple projecting belt course. A striped cloth awning shelters the double synthetic-sided storefront consisting of single-leaf, fully-glazed, metal-frame doors with transoms and a large plate-glass window. This building appears in a 1935 postcard of Raiford Street, but few details of its façade are visible. According to the 1905 Sanborn map, this building contained a millinery.

Commercial Building
120 S. Raiford Street
ca. 1900
Contributing building

The one-story, brick commercial building features terra cotta coping at its parapet above a stepped brick cornice and a simple projecting beltcourse. Vinyl cladding tops a blue cloth awning that shelters a row of fixed-light windows covered in metal vertical bars and a single-leaf, fully-glazed door. A multi-hued brick skirt spans the lower level of the storefront. A 1935 postcard of Raiford Street shows this building with one-story columns supporting a wood cornice above a wood storefront. According to the 1905 Sanborn map, this building contained a confectionary.

Commercial Building
124 S. Raiford Street
ca. 1900; ca. 1960
Contributing building

The one-story, painted-brick commercial building with terra cotta coping at parapet displays large metal-framed display windows and a metal-framed, fully-glazed, single-leaf door. Painted cementitious simulated-stone masonry sheathes the area around the windows and door. A fabric awning shelters a plain transom. A 1935 postcard of Raiford Street shows this building with one-story columns supporting a wood cornice above a wood storefront. Most of the changes to the storefront appear to date to ca. 1960. This building appears on the 1905 Sanborn map, which indicates it contained a dry goods store. On the 1911 Sanborn map, this building contained the telephone exchange.

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His 'n Hers Antiques
126 S. Raiford Street
ca. 1990
Noncontributing building

This one-story, side-gabled, rectangular building features composite wood siding above a brick skirt that extends along the east, west, and south elevations. French doors are located on the east elevation.

E. Railroad Street/North Side

People's Barber Shop
101 E. Railroad Street
ca. 1900
Contributing building

The one-story, painted-brick commercial building features full-height pilasters and a stepped brick cornice. A fabric awning shelters a boarded-over transom, a single, large, plate glass window with a tongue and groove wood skirt, and a half-glazed, divided-light, single-leaf wood door. In 1963, according to the city directory, People's Barber Shop occupied this building and continues to do so.

Commercial Building
103 E. Railroad Street
ca. 1900
Contributing building

The one-story, painted-brick commercial building displays a stepped brick cornice and a rectangular motif executed in header bricks occupying the upper wall beneath the cornice and above a fabric awning shading the storefront. At street level, a pair of large, multi-light windows tops a pair of recessed brick rectangular panels. The entrance has been reconfigured so that the original doorway, which retains its transom, lacks a door and leads to an alcove that allows access to a pair of angled doors. In 1963, according to the city directory, City Fish Market occupied this building.

Floyd C. Price and Sons Grocery
105 E. Railroad Street
ca. 1915; ca. 1940
Contributing building

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The two-story, painted-brick, commercial building with a flat parapet and decorative brick embellishments including diamond and triangular elements on the frieze and four tall, narrow vertical brick bands with corbels at the base and crown that divide the façade into three bays. Large brick recessed panels contain three replacement windows with plain sills and lintels that pierce the upper level; originally casement windows filled these bays. A long narrow recessed panel extends just below the largest window at the center of the elevation. Pilasters with quoins separate the windows and doors on the first level. A large, divided-light display window occupies the central, street-level bay that is sheltered by a fabric awning. A single six-light, fixed window pierces each side of the central bay. A double-leaf, fully-glazed door with transom occupies the west end of the façade and serves as the principal entrance. At the east end, a replacement door displays a transom and sidelight. Round arches with large keystones surmount cloth canopies over the doors and smaller windows at the street level.

A one-story, painted-brick addition with its own storefront was made to the east side of the building in ca. 1940. It features a flat brick parapet and a three-bay façade composed of divided light windows with brick sills flanking a half-glazed wood door with a single sidelight and topped with a prism glass transom. The grocery department of Floyd Price and Sons was located here in 1963, according to the city directory.

Commercial Building
109 E. Railroad Street
ca. 1940
Contributing building

The one-story, painted-brick commercial building with a flat brick parapet and a three-bay façade sheltered by a cloth awning topped by a row of soldier-course brick. Divided light display windows flank a single-leaf wood door. The storefront is skirted with brick.

Coley's Fish Market
111 E. Railroad Street
ca. 1940
Noncontributing building

The façade of this one-story, painted-brick commercial building is partially covered with stucco and topped with a flat brick parapet. A recessed rectangular panel extends across the upper façade. A replacement double-leaf metal door is centered on a bricked-in storefront. Coley's Fish Market, which was owned by an African American, was the occupant in 1961, according to the city directory.

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Floyd Price and Sons Farm Equipment
113 E. Railroad Street
ca. 1950
Contributing building

The large, one-story, brick, Art Moderne-influenced, low gable-roofed commercial building displays a raised brick parapet with concrete coping interrupted by a towering, rectangular brick sign that rises above the parapet and projects slightly from the façade. To the west of the projection, a long glass-block window extends along the top of the street level. A fully-glazed, metal frame door pierces the west end. A double-leaf, metal-frame door pierces the wall east of the projection. The remainder of the street level of this side of the façade is faced with fiberboard panels. The Webb Street elevation features a two-stepped, curved parapet crowning a plywood-covered window and garage bay on its south end. To the north, four glass-block windows pierce the upper wall above a single-leaf, fully-glazed door. In 1961, Floyd Price and Sons Farm Equipment was located here.

E. Railroad Street/South Side

Mitchener's Station/Southern Railway Freight Depot
South side of E. Railroad Street at intersection with S. Webb Street, just north of the historic Southern Railway Right-of-Way
ca. 1855; moved 1867; ca. 1900
Contributing building

The one-story, rectangular, frame building with a hipped, standing seam metal roof with deep eaves stands on wood piers. A loading platform occupies the west elevation and a portion of the north and south elevations. Oversized batten doors pierce the north, west, and south elevations. Smaller windows on the south, east, and north elevations have been covered with boards. On the east elevation, a set of wooden steps leads to a wood platform in front of a five-panel wood door.

The depot originally stood at the crossing of the Southern Railroad and Louisburg to Smithfield Stage Coach Road, approximately one and a half miles west of its present location. Colonel John W. Sharpe convinced the North Carolina Railroad to move the depot to the newly platted town of Selma in 1867. Some time later, likely around the turn of the twentieth century, the depot was overbuilt.

Southern Railway Right-of-Way
1867
Contributing Structure

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The former North Carolina Railroad (later the Southern Railway) runs east-west and forms a portion of the southern boundary of the district.

The Southern Railway's direct predecessor, the Richmond and Danville Railroad, was incorporated in Virginia in 1847 and its early acquisitions included the North Carolina Railroad in 1871. The Richmond and Danville Railroad went into receivership in the mid-1890s. Reorganized by the New York banking firm of Drexel, Morgan and Company, they emerged in 1894 as the Southern Railway Company, which controlled over 4,000 miles of line at its inception.

W. Railroad Street/South Side

(former) U.S. Post Office
101 W. Railroad Street
ca. 1875
Contributing building

A simple, one-story, weatherboard building with a pedimented front-gable roof featuring a classical frieze with simple dentils and moldings. The three-bay façade features a centered door and flanking windows with divided light transoms. A modern deck extends along the façade. The north elevation features replacement windows and a single-leaf door at its west end. A door and window, which have been covered in siding, are evident on the south elevation.

E. Waddell Street/South Side

Commercial Building
102 E. Waddell Street
ca. 1940
Contributing building

The one-story, pressed-brick commercial building features a flat parapet of slightly projecting brick. A circular motif pierces the upper façade just above a semi-circular fabric awning-shaded single-leaf half-glazed wood door. Two pair of 1/1 wood sash windows with soldier-course lintels pierce the façade on each side of the entrance. The east elevation features a stepped projecting brick parapet above a series of 1/1 double-hung sash; the most northern window has been filled with synthetic siding and an air conditioning unit. A semi-circular, fabric awning shelters a solid wood door on this elevation.

W. Waddell Street/North Side

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Downtown Selma Historic District
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Selma Dinette
104 W. Waddell Street
ca. 1950
Contributing building

The one-story, plain brick building features a flat parapet. A large, plate-glass window and metal-framed, single-leaf, fully-glazed door with a sidelight and transom are east of the window. Selma Dinette occupied this building in 1957.

Ideal Cleaners and Laundry
106 W. Waddell Street
1947
Contributing building

The one-story, plain brick building has a flat parapet. Large plate glass display windows with metal frames flank the single leaf, fully-glazed door at the center of the façade. The west elevation features a stepped parapet above a series of metal-bar-covered windows in addition to a single-leaf door.

The October 30, 1947 edition of *The Johnstonian-Sun* featured a photo of this building with the following caption: "Selma's new self-service laundry opened for business on Monday morning in a new building on Waddell Street. The proprietors Ed Creech and Harry Blackley are shown standing out front. The establishment has 12 brand new Bendix de luxe washing machines." The 1957 city directory provides the name of the business and indicates that Ed Creech still owned the business and Harry Blackley worked as a "spotter" at the launderette.

Alley Intersects

Washerette
110 W. Waddell Street
ca. 1950
Contributing building

The one-story, painted-brick building features a flat parapet above a rectangular panel executed in raised brick headers. Large, plate-glass display windows above a brick skirt flank a recessed single-leaf, metal-frame door with a plain transom. The west elevation facing the alley features a stepped parapet. The 1957 city directory lists this as Washerette. By 1963, it is listed as Self Service Laundry.

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Downtown Selma Historic District
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Selma Beauty Shop
112 W. Waddell Street
ca. 1950
Contributing building

The one-story, painted-brick building features a flat parapet above a rectangular panel executed in raised brick headers. Large, plate-glass display windows above a brick skirt flank a recessed single-leaf, metal-frame door with a plain transom. The 1957 city directory lists this as the Selma Beauty Shop.

W. Waddell Street/South Side

Commercial Building
103 W. Waddell Street
ca. 1940
Contributing building

The one-story, two-part, painted-brick commercial building has a flat parapet of slightly projecting bricks. The storefronts are nearly identical with an elongated decorative flat brick panel above a fabric awning that shelters large plate glass display windows above brick skirts and flanking double-leaf doors topped with transoms. The west storefront features brick stairs leading from the sidewalk to the door, while the east storefront has a gently sloping concrete approach to its door. In 1957, according to the city directory, this building housed C.E. Kornegay & Co. Wholesale Grocery and Lane's Super Market, which was owned by Wilbert Lane.

Rainbow Child Care
107 W. Waddell Street
ca. 2000
Noncontributing building

The one-story, brick building has a front gable roof. Windows are awning style and newer 6/6 sash. A gable roofed porch on the façade shelters the entrance.

Selma Baptist Church
109 W. Waddell Street
1908; 1948
Contributing building

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The large, brick, Gothic Revival-style, cross-gable building displays a square corner bell tower containing the main entrance. The bell tower, positioned on the church's northwest corner, features three tiers of lancet openings—windows and entries—framed by brick pilasters on the upper two levels. The tower's roof is missing. Brick buttresses divide the bays on each elevation. The stained-glass windows have been removed throughout. Terra cotta coping tops the parapet on each elevation. A two-and-a-half-story gable-roofed education wing includes original 6/6 double-hung sash and corner buttresses.

The Selma Baptist Church, chartered in 1872, was the first congregation established in Selma. Dr. W.M. Wingate, President of Wake Forest College, served as the first pastor and the first building went up around 1875 at the intersection of E. Watson and S. Sharpe streets. In 1905, the lot for a new church was purchased and three years later, in 1908, this building was completed. The two-and-a-half-story educational wing dates to 1948. The Free Spirit Church purchased the building in 1990.

S. Webb Street/West Side

(These properties lack numbered street addresses and are listed from north to south)

Robert-Atkinson Company Warehouse
ca. 1900
Contributing building

The one-story, flat-roofed brick warehouse features a stepped parapet topped with terra cotta tile on the north side. A single loading dock bay is located at the center of the east elevation. The warehouse appears on the 1905 Sanborn map as a grocery warehouse, making it likely the oldest standing industrial building in Selma. A deed from 1998 refers to it as the building commonly referred to as the Robert-Atkinson Company warehouse.

Warehouse
ca. 1920
Contributing building

The one-story, gabled-roof brick warehouse displays a tall terra cotta tiled parapet on its east elevation. Replacement garage doors fill the two large bays on the warehouse's east end. A door is positioned at the center of this elevation, between the garage bays. The earliest Sanborn map featuring this building dates to 1923; it is labeled as a general warehouse on that map.

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Summary

The Downtown Selma Historic District in the town of Selma in Johnston County, North Carolina containing sixty-eight buildings and one structure meets National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Commerce, Transportation, and Architecture. Late nineteenth- and mid-twentieth century brick commercial buildings, brick warehouses, a church, theater, historic post office, and frame freight depot chronicle the town's founding as a railroad hub through its development as a center of government and commerce. The district has served as the principal commercial and trade center for the town settled in 1867. In 1886, a branch of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, which later become the Atlantic Coast Line, intersected the North Carolina Railroad at Selma, leading to a period of rapid growth, especially in its commercial area. Selma's position as an important transportation hub expanded in the twentieth century as several major national and state highways passed through or very near its town limits. Buildings in the district represent the predominant architectural types and forms executed in small railroad towns in North Carolina's Coastal Plain in the decades just before the turn of the twentieth century through 1960. The period of significance for this locally significant Downtown Selma Historic District begins in ca. 1875, the date of construction of the historic post office located on W. Railroad Street, and ends in 1960. Although Selma's businesses continued to operate, the period after 1960 does not possess exceptional significance. With eighty-seven percent of its resources categorized as contributing, the Downtown Selma Historic District maintains a high degree of architectural integrity.

Historical Background and Commerce and Transportation Context

The town of Selma has its origins at Mitchener's Station, a depot of the North Carolina Railroad that stood approximately two miles west of present-day Selma. The North Carolina Railroad was chartered in 1849 and, when completed, it extended from Goldsboro to Charlotte through Raleigh. When the line from Raleigh to Goldsboro was completed in 1856, it crossed the Louisburg to Smithfield Stage Road in Johnston County. The railroad built a depot at this crossing and named it for Agrippa Mitchener whose farm stood nearby. Colonel John W. Sharp, a native of Alabama who came to Johnston County just after the Civil War in order to purchase naval stores and cotton, saw an opportunity to establish a town centered on Mitchener's Station. After he discovered that the landowners were minor children, he abandoned that idea and instead bought land from Daniel Sellers and convinced the North Carolina Railroad to move the depot to the new town he was helping to establish. Colonel Sharp and Captain A. M. Noble, who owned a general store east of Mitchener's Station, were among a group of citizens who joined together to form

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Selma. On May 1, 1867, the public sale of lots began with great fanfare including a barbeque and dance. The town was named for Selma, Alabama.¹

Johnston County surveyor Charles Massey platted the fifty-acre tract. John Sharp and Daniel Sellers named the town's major streets for prominent local men and railroad officials: W. P. Raiford, John A. Waddell, J. M. Anderson, who was superintendent of the North Carolina Railroad, and Thomas Webb, president of the North Carolina Railroad.²

Soon after the sale of lots, businesses sprang up along the railroad tracks and commercial development would remain centered along the right-of-way for the next twenty years. In 1869, S. H. Hood, A. M. Noble, J. S. Book and Company, and C. E. Preston operated general stores. J. C. Colyer ran a grocery business. John W. Sharp worked as an attorney and ran a hotel. The town had only one church, which was Episcopalian. In 1872, the congregation of the Selma Baptist Church formed.³

On February 11, 1873, the North Carolina General Assembly chartered the town with the corporate limits set at one-half mile square and the railroad warehouse at the geographic center. According to the charter, a mayor, four commissioners, and a marshal would constitute the town government.⁴

Selma's citizens elected merchant and farmer Albert M. Noble as their first mayor and two men—one African American and the other white—as the town's first police officers. According to a newspaper account, the African American officer "had a large percentage of Selma's white population residing in the town jail." Conversely, according to the report, the white policeman arrested many African Americans. As a compromise, it was decided that each officer could only arrest those of his own race.⁵

From 1880 to 1890, Selma's population greater than doubled when it went from 256 to 527. With more potential customers to serve, the town's business sector expanded at the close of the century. According to Branson's 1890 business directory, Selma had two hotels—the Godwin Hotel and Noble Hotel—and one boarding house. Thirteen general stores operated, two of which also sold drugs and one also functioned as a saloon. E. S. Moore ran the town's only grocery and T. H. Whitley operated another saloon. Winston

¹ Thomas J. Lassiter and Wingate Lassiter, *Johnston County: 1746-1996* (Smithfield: by the authors, 1996), 113-114; John A. Mitchener, *John Mitchener's History of Selma*, Selma: *The Johnstonian-Sun*, 1965, n.p.

² Raleigh News and Observer, March 31, 1935.

³ Selma Centennial Commission, Inc., *Selma's Colorful Century, 1867-1967*, (Selma: Selma Centennial Commission, 1967), n.p.

⁴ General Session Laws (Private) of 1872-73, Chapter XVI, page 388.

⁵ Raleigh News and Observer, March 31, 1935.

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Brothers and Webb, Tisdale & Company were cotton buyers. J. Rains owned the town's grist mill and two individuals had corn and flour mills. Drs. Vick, Noble, and Todd were the town's physicians.⁶

In 1885, officials of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad (ACLR) decided to construct a shortcut from Wilson to Fayetteville on its New York to Florida line through Selma. The line crossed the Southern Railway (the former North Carolina Railroad) just east of downtown. The completion of the ACLR in 1892 brought new commercial and industrial businesses to Selma as the nineteenth century closed.⁷

According to a local history, at the turn of the twentieth century business activity was still mostly occurring south of the railroad tracks.⁸ Over the next few years, that would change as more businesses constructed buildings north of the right-of-way. In 1952, J. D. Waddell, who came to Selma around 1890, recalled that the first business to open on Raiford Street north of the tracks was a blacksmith shop owned by African American John Graham. Waddell remembered that on the opposite side of the street from Graham's business stood several frame rooming houses. According to him, J. P. Temple tore them down and built several brick stores at the site.⁹

In 1902, the Bank of Selma board announced plans to construct a new building in the area north of the tracks. That same year, construction of new buildings for Winston's Store and Charles Tarlton's jewelry store had begun. That summer a committee of the Masonic Temple chose the corner occupied by the Raleigh Savings Bank as the site of their new building. All of this construction occurred north of the Southern Railway tracks and signaled a shift away from the railroad as the town's focal point.¹⁰

At the turn of the twentieth century, the 816 people living in Selma began to desire more modern conveniences, so it was with great fanfare that Southern Bell began providing telephone service in 1902. The town shared a direct line with Goldsboro, Clayton, and Raleigh. Southern Bell's business office stood at the corner of Railroad and Raiford streets.¹¹ The dawn of the twentieth century saw the types and numbers of businesses expand. That year the general merchandise stores were M. C. Winston & Company, J. H. Parker, R. H. Whitley & Company, T. H. Whitley, and Etheridge & Hatcher. Selma Hardware and J. E. Creech sold hardware. Seven retail grocers were operating including W. B. Driver, George B. Vick &

⁶ Department of the Interior, Census Office, *Report on the Population of the United States at the Eleventh Census: 1890, Part I* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1895), 258; L. Branson, *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory* (Raleigh: L. Branson, 1890), 394-398.

⁷ Selma Centennial Commission, Inc, *Selma's Colorful Century, 1867-1967*, 1967, n.p.

⁸ Selma Centennial Commission, Inc, *Selma's Colorful Century, 1867-1967*, 1967, n.p.

⁹ *The Johnstonian-Sun*, April 10, 1952.

¹⁰ Selma Centennial Commission, Inc, *Selma's Colorful Century, 1867-1967*, 1967, n.p.

¹¹ *The Johnstonian-Sun*, January 19, 1953.

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Brother, and W. T. Talton. One saloon—The Selma Dispensary—provided alcoholic beverages to citizens and travelers. Fuller & Whitley operated the only livery stable and F. M. Hood was the undertaker. C. Talton ran a jewelry store. J. W. Hatcher was the town's dentist, while Drs. Noble and Person worked as physicians.¹²

The beginning of the twentieth century also witnessed a significant expansion in the town's industrial sector. In 1904, the Selma Cotton Mills started, followed by the Lizzie Cotton Mill in 1907 and the Ethel Cotton Mill in 1910. By 1905, two tobacco warehouses—the Star Warehouse and the Planters Warehouse—operated in Selma.¹³

More emerging modern technology touched Selma in 1905 when Clarence Harper and Hugh Mitchener jointly purchased the first automobile to appear in town. Soon thereafter, town commissioners passed an ordinance prohibiting the driving of cars in the business district claiming it frightened horses and mules, which were still the dominant form of transportation.¹⁴

The 1905 phone directory lists fourteen businesses with telephone service including A. V. Driver's general store, W. B. Driver's grocery, C. B. Ellis & Bro. grocery, W. H. Etheredge Dry Goods Store. J. H. Parker General Store, Selma Drug Company, Selma Manufacturing Company for hardware and furniture, N. B. Snipes & Bro. grocery, E. W. Vick druggist, J. M. Vinson & Co. grocery, and M. C. Winston general store.¹⁵

By this time, commercial buildings lined almost the entire stretch of the east and west sides of S. Raiford Street between the tracks of the Southern Railway and Anderson Street. However, the block of Raiford Street north of Anderson Street remained nearly empty. A row of approximately sixteen businesses stood on the south side of, and facing, the tracks. In a newspaper account in 1956, Robert Suber, a native of Dothan, Alabama who settled in Selma as a young man, described the town as it was in 1906 upon his arrival. Streets remained unpaved and there were no sidewalks or water and sewer service, according to Mr. Suber. He remembered that a common sight was a wagon stuck in the mud in the middle of town. He

¹² Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1910, vol. III: Population, 1910* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1913), 277; *The North Carolina Year Book, 1902* (Raleigh: News and Observer, 1902), 314-315.

¹³ Thomas A. Greco, *Historic Architecture of Selma, North Carolina* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1980), 11.

¹⁴ *The Johnstonian-Sun*, August 17, 1944, page 17.

¹⁵ *Eastern Carolina and Virginia Exchanges and Toll Stations of the Home Carolina Inter-State and Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Companies, January 1905*, pages 16-17.

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described the transition of the business district: "Stores were just beginning to come up to what is now the business section from the other side of the railroad."¹⁶

Throughout the 1910s, downtown Selma streets remained unpaved and quite muddy during wet weather. Sidewalks were mostly nonexistent except in front of new buildings. Several frame buildings remained downtown including a livery just north of the northeast corner of Anderson and Raiford streets. The two-story, front-gabled building towered over a more modern, two-story brick general store to its south. An imposing two-story weatherboard general store stood on the southeast corner of Raiford and Anderson streets until the Person-Vick building went up in 1916.¹⁷

In its June 7, 1912 edition, *The Smithfield Herald* reported that "the merchants in Selma number from thirty-five to forty-five, all doing a good business in up-to-date buildings." The paper added that an electric plant was under construction.¹⁸ One merchant who arrived in 1912 was Isaac E. Coley, an African American shoe repairman. He later opened a harness shop, which he passed to his son.¹⁹

In 1920, the population stood at 1,601, a figure almost double the number of people living in the town in 1900. In 1922, the town hired W. W. Piatt of Durham to pave the streets in the commercial area. After many delays and frustration on the part of merchants because of the disruption of business caused by dismantled pavement, the project was completed in August.²⁰ That year local historian John Mitchener remarked that "in the writer's opinion there are more paved streets and side-walks and brick buildings here today than there were in Raleigh when Selma came into existence."²¹

A 1926 article in *The Johnstonian* newspaper aimed at attracting new businesses and industry to town highlighted Selma's commercial assets. Its author boasted that "there is no town in Eastern North Carolina which can offer better natural or commercial advantages than Selma, and the reason she has not grown quite as fast as some other cities in the East is because she is younger and her natural advantages are so great and varied, her people become somewhat wanton and have not put forth their full energy and strength in business as they have should." The article goes on to assert that Selma's "commercial advantages should

¹⁶ *The Johnstonian-Sun*, August 23, 1956.

¹⁷ 1910 photograph of Raiford Street taken by Jay Battain; 1915 photographs of the Selma Tomato, Melon and Better Baby Fair, July 24, 1915; and ca. 1917 photograph of Roberts, Corbett, and Woodard storefront; in the collection of the Johnston County Heritage Center, Smithfield, North Carolina; 1905 and 1911 Sanborn maps.

¹⁸ *The Smithfield Herald*, June 7, 1912.

¹⁹ Selma Centennial Commission, Inc, *Selma's Colorful Century, 1867-1967*, 1967, n.p.

²⁰ Selma Centennial Commission, Inc, *Selma's Colorful Century, 1867-1967*, 1967, n.p.

²¹ U.S. Department of Commerce, *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, Population, Vol. I: Number and Distribution of Inhabitants* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1931), 791; John A. Mitchener, *John Mitchener's History of Selma* (Selma: *The Johnstonian-Sun*, 1965), n.p.

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enable her merchants to make it the best market, and place to trade, in all the country.” Another article in the newspaper touted the town’s three cotton mills, a lumber and manufacturing plant, and oil mills, in addition to the A. T. & T. test station located above the First National Bank, which served as the main line for telephone and telegraph service between the north and the south.²²

As in towns and cities across North Carolina and the nation, Selma suffered thorough the Great Depression. A good bit of boosterism took place in local and regional papers in order to encourage investment in the local economy. In March of 1935, the *Raleigh News and Observer* profiled Selma and categorized it as “innately and inherently a railroad town.” The article continued, “were it not for the railroads, there would be no mills, no shipping of farm produce from here.” The same article hailed Selma’s fourteen miles of paved sidewalks and streets that were completed in 1933. Elsewhere in the March 1935 edition of the paper, building contractor M. M. Gurkin remarked that he had arrived in Selma twenty years earlier and had constructed countless buildings. At the time of the article he was remodeling a commercial building. Gurkin’s advertisement in the same newspaper implored readers that “if you are thinking of building a home or store, or remodeling, get in touch with me.”²³

Businesses in Selma in 1937 included Walt Godwin clothing, Selma Clothing & Shoe Company, Carolina Theater, and Rose Music Company.²⁴ That year two fires impacted the business district. In October, a blaze destroyed City Barber Shop and City Café. Selma Drug, Walt Godwin’s store, and O’Neal’s Pool Room also suffered damaged. One month later, fire devastated the Carolina Theater and Masonic Hall.²⁵

In 1940, just over two thousand people lived in Selma and a variety of businesses served the population, including general merchandise stores, barber shops, shoe and hat stores, groceries, furniture stores, and beauty shops.²⁶

The July 9, 1941 edition of *The Johnstonian-Sun* reported a more modern store for Floyd C. Price & Son, a company which owned and operated several outlets in downtown Selma. The company built a three-story annex on E. Anderson Street so that the business could be entered from S. Raiford or E. Anderson Street. The paper reported that “the original building fronting S. Raiford has been thoroughly overhauled by putting in a cement floor and a new coat of plastering on the walls.” The new annex, which appears to no longer be standing, had a basement of solid concrete made accessible by an elevator. An archway was

²² *The Johnstonian*, June 17, 1926.

²³ *Raleigh News and Observer*, March 31, 1935.

²⁴ *The Johnstonian*, September 2, 1937.

²⁵ Selma Centennial Commission, Inc, *Selma’s Colorful Century, 1867-1967*, 1967, n.p.

²⁶ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *U.S. Census of the Population, 1950, vol. I: Number of Inhabitants* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1952), page 33-15; *The Johnstonian-Sun*, April 18, 1940.

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added on the north (rear) end of the S. Raiford Street building so that the two buildings could be merged at their rear elevations. The top stories of the two buildings were connected by cutting a large door through the wall. According to the article, “the large fronts on both Anderson and Raiford streets are entirely new and are among the most attractive to be found in this part of the state. Besides the main store building, this firm has elaborate storage facilities fronting both Webb and Railroad Streets.”²⁷

World War II had a great impact on Selma. The local newspaper reported the names of local men serving in the armed forces. Equipment and troops traveled by rail through Selma throughout the war. In order to contribute to the war effort, Selma merchants and residents planted victory gardens and conserved resources. In August 1942, one of a series of scrap material drives was held to collect unwanted rubber, iron, and rags that could then be converted to guns, shells, and other equipment needed for the troops. The Selma Theater on Raiford Street served as the collection point for that particular scrap drive. In 1943, several businesses, including Woodard and Creech Drug Store, announced abbreviated hours of operation because of the labor shortage caused by the war.²⁸

At the end of World War II, Selma experienced another boom period during which a significant amount of construction and improvement took place downtown. During this period, the Selma Chamber of Commerce was organized in order to boost the town’s appeal, especially to prospective businesses. Meanwhile, the local newspaper continuously urged merchants and residents to tidy up the town. In December of 1943, *The Johnstonian-Sun* commended the removal of an “untidy” annex on the rear of the town hall and opera house that stood on the north side of E. Anderson Street. The article offered this encouragement: “keep it up boys and one by one these eye sores are removed, everyone will commend you for it.”²⁹

The late 1940s witnessed a wave of building within the commercial area. In October of 1947, the local paper reported that Thomas Jordan Sr. of Smithfield had begun construction of a building in Selma to house the Jordan Motor Company. According to the article, “the structure is to be 62 x 82 feet, one story high, and made of brick. It will be located at the corner of Anderson and Webb streets, next to the present Jordan Motor Company.”³⁰ When the building was completed, it stood two stories tall and featured large plate glass windows to showcase its vehicles.

The same edition of the newspaper heralded the opening of Selma’s new self-service laundry which opened “for business on Monday morning in a new building on Waddell Street.” A caption under the photograph of the business identified the proprietors as Ed Creech and Harry Blackley, who are shown standing in front of

²⁷ *The Johnstonian-Sun*, July 9, 1941.

²⁸ *The Johnstonian-Sun*, August 27, 1942; *The Johnstonian-Sun*, July 1, 1943.

²⁹ *The Johnstonian-Sun*, December 23, 1943; *The Johnstonian-Sun*, January 11, 1945.

³⁰ *The Johnstonian-Sun*, October 30, 1947.

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the one-story, brick building. According to the article, the laundry boasted twelve brand new Bendix deluxe washing machines.³¹

The post-World War II period saw the demand for improvements in the commercial area. At a meeting of the town's Chamber of Commerce that took place in late 1950, merchant B. A. Henry called for an improvement in telephone service for merchants. He remarked that the amount of business activity in Selma required better phone equipment. A contingent of participants at the meeting feared for the jobs of the fifteen "girls" who served as operators for the exchange that predated the dial system. Dial service became available in Selma in early 1953.³²

The town's population stood at 2,639 in 1950s and as the town grew in the early 1950s, its infrastructure became more strained. At a Chamber of Commerce meeting in 1951, Talmadge Corbett, the organization's president, implored the town to improve the sewer system and water supply. In addition, many streets in downtown Selma remained unpaved during the mid-twentieth century. At that same Chamber meeting, Dr. R. M. Blackburn declared, "I would like us to do something concrete about paving Railroad Street." Later that year, the city paved the street and installed 100 cement obelisk street markers at intersections throughout town. In 1952, the town unveiled a new water system.³³

The prominent town hall, which was built in 1916, remained a focus of concern in the town through the early 1950s. A recurring problem was that pieces of brick and mortar frequently fell off the building. In early 1951, that issue was coupled with the problem of a window falling out of the building onto the pavement below. Fortunately, no one was injured by the plummeting sash. In March of that year, loose bricks were restored and the mortar joints repaired.³⁴ After years of neglect, the town demolished the building twenty years later.

As war veterans returned to Selma, many became involved in the town's business culture. In March 1951, Layton Norris, who had been discharged from the Army in 1945, opened Diamond's Credit Jewelers on Raiford Street. He formerly worked for Stanley Credit Jewelers in Dunn. To attract more individuals to open businesses and industries in Selma, the town board reduced local tax rates in early 1951.³⁵

³¹ *The Johnstonian-Sun*, October 30, 1947.

³² *The Johnstonian-Sun*, November 6, 1950; *The Johnstonian-Sun*, December 18, 1952.

³³ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *U.S. Census of the Population, 1950, vol. I: Number of Inhabitants* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1952), p. 33-15; *The Johnstonian-Sun*, April 26, 1951; *The Johnstonian-Sun*, July 31, 1952.

³⁴ *The Johnstonian-Sun*, March 1, 1951.

³⁵ *The Johnstonian-Sun*, February 8, 1951; *The Johnstonian-Sun*, March 15, 1951.

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In 1959, the Selma Chamber of Commerce estimated the population at 3,300. The Chamber boasted that “Selma is the place to go if you want to see a mid-eastern North Carolina town at its best.” The organization reported that downtown Selma contained “an unusual assortment of stores and service establishments catering to the town and farms in the area.”³⁶

In 1961, the town approved a redevelopment plan for the business district. This resulted in the installation of fixed awnings in front of the commercial businesses.³⁷ Since that time, those awnings have been removed in an effort to improve the town’s appearance and restore the historic integrity to its streetscapes.

Architecture Context

The first commercial buildings constructed in Selma were one- and two-story frame, wood-sided stores erected along the railroad in the last decades of the nineteenth century. The ca. 1855 depot, which was moved in 1867 and expanded around 1900, remains a simple, wood-sided building with a hipped roof. The former United States Post Office at 101 W. Railroad Street is typical of those earliest buildings. The one-story classical-influenced frame building features a pedimented front gable over a single-leaf door with sidelights and a transom.

The beginning of the twentieth century signaled a transition in importance of the railroad in the local economy as motorized transportation began to emerge as a viable method for transporting goods. This shift away from the railroad as the major engine driving the town’s economy was literal as Raiford and Anderson streets became the epicenter of Selma’s commercial core, leaving the earlier commercial district along the railroad to wither. As the streets north of the tracks began to fill with all types of business concerns, impressive brick buildings rose. Some of these followed a standard commercial style of one- to two-stories in height and typically displaying a stepped cornice, sawtooth banding, and very occasionally segmental-arched windows. Buildings of this form and style were constructed in profusion in downtowns across the state from the late nineteenth-century through the mid-twentieth century, when commercial development shifted to the suburbs. In Selma, the Selma Manufacturing Company at the southwest corner of Raiford and Anderson streets remains one of the most intact buildings constructed at the turn of the twentieth century. The two-story, brick building features an overhang on its north elevation along Anderson Street where a resulting covered sidewalk is supported by cast iron columns. On the S. Raiford Street side, concrete coping crowns a stepped parapet above a metal cornice that surmounts a brick sawtooth band. Original 2/2 sash under segmental arches remain, as do the columnettes between the paired windows. The pattern of segmental arches carries to the W. Anderson Street elevation.

³⁶ Selma Chamber of Commerce, “Selma,” in *Hill’s Smithfield and Selma City Directory, 1959* (Richmond: Hill Directory Co., 1959), page xv.

³⁷ Selma Centennial Commission, Inc, *Selma’s Colorful Century, 1867-1967*, 1967, n.p.

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The most decorative buildings from the early twentieth century in Selma display metal storefronts. As small town began to grow during this period, merchants believed that impressive buildings would attract customers and one of the most affordable ways to enhance an otherwise plain brick building was to add metal cornices manufactured from sheet iron. The circa 1910 building at 103-107 N. Raiford Street is a two-story, three-part brick commercial building with a projecting, embossed pressed-metal cornice with a dentil band. The two-story, brick Masonic Lodge building from 1908, located at 109-111 S. Raiford Street, presents a projecting pressed-metal cornice supported by brackets at its stepped brick parapet.

Some commercial buildings constructed in the late 1910s and 1920s differed greatly from those built in the decades prior. Builders exerted an exuberance in their finished work that was more typical of larger towns and cities of the period. The two-story Person-Vick Building, completed in 1916, stands prominently at the southeast corner of S. Raiford and E. Anderson streets, the town's principal intersection, and displays an eclectic array of masonry detailing as well as a corner loggia. The People's Bank/Branch Banking and Trust Company building, completed in 1922 at 100 N. Raiford Street, presented a monumental form in the Neoclassical style with Corinthian columns supporting a bold cornice. The John Mitchener Building, finished in the mid-1920s at 202-208 N. Raiford Street, exhibits rich details in its terra cotta entablature and pilasters.

Buildings constructed in the 1940s, 1950s, and early 1960 signaled the return of more modest features so that many buildings during this period lacked any sort of decorative motif. The lack of innovative design likely resulted in the rush to build following World War II. The one-story, four-part, pressed-brick buildings at 121-127 N. Raiford Street date to the mid-1950s and epitomize the type of modest brick buildings constructed in small towns throughout the region during this period. Concrete coping tops the flat parapet that crowns the brick sawtooth cornice extending along the top of the facades. Header bricks formed into a rectangle provide the only decorative element to the otherwise modest block of buildings. Godwin's Red and White Grocery, which was constructed around 1960 at 201 N. Raiford Street, presents a form more often seen in suburban development: a low, horizontal building lacking decorative elements other than its stepped window pattern fronted by a large parking lot. This property represents a departure from the traditional pattern of nineteenth-century downtowns where the buildings line the sidewalks and street.

A contrast to the mundane architecture of the post-war period was the Art Deco and Art Moderne styles. The Art Deco style enjoyed popularity from the mid-1920s into the late 1940s. Common Art Deco-style features on commercial buildings included smooth wall surfaces, such as pigmented structural glass facades, and stylized geometric motifs. While the style is not common in small to medium-sized towns in North Carolina, some of its defining elements, such as glass facades, were applied to older brick buildings as a means to update them. An Art Deco-influenced façade partially covers the commercial building at 102 S.

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Raiford Street. It was built around the turn of the twentieth-century, but was updated with pigmented structural glass in the late 1940s. The Art Moderne style emerged in the late 1930s and was related to the Art Deco style. It emphasized curving forms and long horizontal lines, often featuring glass block and flat roofs with some type of coping at the parapet. The Floyd Price and Sons Farm Equipment building from circa 1950, located at 105 E. Railroad Street, shows the influence of the Art Moderne style in its glass block and curving parapet topped with terra cotta tile coping.

While commercial architecture dominates the downtown Selma, the district also contains a good example of the ecclesiastic Gothic Revival style in the 1908 Selma Baptist Church located on W. Waddell Street and a simple two-story residence at 211 N. Raiford Street. The Gothic Revival style was based on English and French architecture and was first adopted in the North Carolina by Episcopalian congregations before spreading to other faiths. In North Carolina, the most prominent Gothic Revival-style churches are Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill, which dates to 1842-1848, and Christ Church in Raleigh (1848-1852). After the Civil War, the Gothic Revival style became the most popular style for churches in small town and rural North Carolina. The circa 1915 vernacular house at the north end of the district has a hip roof, shingle sheathing, and a side-hall plan. It is the only residence in the historic district.

The Downtown Selma Historic District remains one of the most intact, railroad-centered commercial areas in eastern North Carolina. Comparable districts in the region include the Benson Historic District (NR, 1985) in Benson, which was chartered in 1887 on a branch of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad. Like Selma, Benson, which is also in Johnston County, became a transportation and trade center in eastern North Carolina. The town's main street consists of a series of impressive one-, two- and three-story brick commercial buildings including the Neoclassical Revival-style Farmers Commercial Bank from 1921. The district's commercial, residential, educational, and ecclesiastical resources provide a strong visual link to Benson's early development around agriculture and the railroad.³⁸

The Four Oaks Historic District (NR 2006) encompasses the intact nine-block core of the south-central Johnston County town established by the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad in 1886. Like Selma's commercial core, the Four Oaks Historic District includes one- and two-story brick buildings built in the first half of the twentieth century with simple decorative brick cornices and storefronts with central recessed doors. More decorative buildings include the Four Oaks Bank, which retains arched entrances and display windows evocative of the Richardsonian Romanesque style of the late nineteenth century.³⁹

³⁸ Benson Historic District National Register Nomination, page 8/1 (1985).

³⁹ Four Oaks Commercial Historic District Nomination, page 8/13 (2006).

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UTM References

5.	17 746300	3935690
6.	17 746180	3935720
7.	17 746200	3935910
8.	17 746260	3936020

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Downtown Selma Historic District is shown by the bold, dark line on the accompanying Johnston County map drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Downtown Selma Historic District includes the significant concentration of historic commercial resources in the town of Selma, and excludes modern commercial, residential, and industrial resources in neighboring areas.